From: Matt Harrigan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:58pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Look, I'm not a lawyer. I'm not a big corporate hotshot. I'm a concerned citizen
and frequent user of computers. The bottom line in all this is that while Microsoft
is a big company with alot of money, and they try very hard to make decent products
for consumers, they fail. Alot. As a matter of fact the machine from which this is being
sent is running Windows ME, and i'll be extremely surprised if I can complete this email
message before something bad happens. On the other hand, the windows environment
provides an interface which is popular because of it's ease of use, so alot of applications
get written for it, both by Microsoft and by companies which will eventually be bought by
Microsoft. Right now, sitting next to me is a linux machine which also runs an email program
called pine. It's existed for about a decade with about 15 different revisions (a relatively small
number for a piece of software), and i've been using it since then. It has never crashed.
I have never lost an email from using pine. This happens for three reasons:

1. Pine is written well.
2. It sits on linux which is a stable platform.
3. It's open source, so it works on everything.

Microsoft does not make products which do not crash.
Microsoft does not support open source standards.
Microsoft does not care.
Projects like WINE, StarOffice, etc... will suffer greatly if Microsoft is not actively encouraged
by the US government to do the right thing. This is why we have a department of justice. You
broke up the bell system, you privatized airlines, now please understand that the same thing
needs to be done for the computer reliant public.

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